

Subject: CM Huizar on mental health crisis
From: "Ari Simon" <ari.simon@lacity.org>
Date: 10/23/17, 5:13 PM
To: Ari Simon

Hi there,

Wanted to take a moment and share an update with you regarding Councilmember Huizar's work and response to the mental health crisis in Downtown LA. This is an issue that affects you and me every day, whether we're passing by people on the sidewalk, deploying resources to engage with people, or are fully confronted by the people its affecting most.

Thanks to Measure H, the County has a lot more dollars in hand to respond to this. And thanks to Councilmember Huizar's leadership, five multi-disciplinary outreach teams with experts in mental health and substance abuse are now engaging people who need help in Downtown LA 5 days a week. But more is clearly needed.

After a recent meeting with the new Director of LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH) Jonathan Sherin - alongside extensive feedback from Downtown service providers and people like you - the Councilmember has formulated a list of action items he sees as critical to addressing the mental health crisis.

Councilmember Huizar wants to share this assessment with the entire Downtown community. Please read his thoughts here: http://www.ladowntownnews.com/opinion/mental-health-crisis-is-a-crime-but-it-shouldn-t/article_235add00-b5e2-11e7-9d12-cb43d3169f36.html

Thanks to Councilmember Huizar, I've been grateful to discuss this and other related items with many of you, but please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly to discuss next steps. We all must work together to further these asks.

Effective solutions here, alongside solutions that address related crises of hygiene access, housing availability, and job opportunities, will make a tremendous difference.

Thank you,

Ari

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